

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 088229
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 088229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: NPG - HIGH LEVEL GROUP REPORT
REF: (A) USNATO 3368 (B) USNATO 3454

1. BY LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL SEPTEL, IN HIS CAPACITY AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP, AND WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE,
ASD/ISA MCGIFFERT HAS TRANSMITTED TO SECRETARY GENERAL
LUNS, FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PARTICIPANTS, THE HLG REPORT
TO NPG. HAVING TAKEN THIS ACTION, WE CONSIDER THE REPORT
TO BE COMPLETE AND FINAL. WHILE WE HAVE MADE AN EFFORT TO
ACCOMMODATE LAST-MINUTE COMMENTS, TIME HAS NOT PERMITTED
THAT FINAL REFINEMENT OF WORDING THAT MAY CHARACTERIZE
THE PREPARATION OF SOME NATO DOCUMENTS. NEITHER IS IT
NECESSARY; THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE REPORT SHOULD BE
SATISFACTORY TO ALL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 088229

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE APRIL 6 PERMREP
CONSIDERATION OF THE HLG REPORT IS TO OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR NATIONS WHO WILL NOT BE PRESENT AT THE NPG MINISTERIAL
TO AIR THEIR VIEWS, AND FOR NATIONS TO MAKE AMPLIFYING RE-
MARKS WHICH WOULD ASSIST OTHER NATIONS IN PREPARING THEIR
MINISTER FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MINISTERIAL.

3. SINCE HLG CHAIRMAN HAS TRANSMITTED THE REPORT TO THE NPG -- BOTH MINISTERS AND PERMREPS -- A PERMREPS TRANSMIT-

TAL REPORT WOULD SEEM UNNECESSARY. IF PERMREPS FAVOR SUCH A REPORT, WE WOULD FIND IT ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS ITS CONTENT WAS PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. IN TERMS OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUES IN THE HLG REPORT, WE BELIEVE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES BY PERMREPS IN A TRANSMITTAL REPORT WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE -- DEBATE IN THE HLG SESSIONS HAS ALREADY IDENTIFIED THE ISSUES AND RESOLVED THEM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE DIRECTLY BETWEEN CAPITALS. FYI. ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS COULD RISK ACCENTUATING DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY COMPROMISED. THE USG HAS NO NEGOTIATING ROOM BEYOND THE POSITION ALREADY TAKEN IN THE HLG REPORT. END FYI.

5. WHILE NOT WANTING TO REOPEN DEBATE ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, WE RECOGNIZE THAT NATIONS WHICH WILL NOT BE PRESENT AT THE MINISTERIAL MAY WISH THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. IF SO, AN APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR THIS WOULD BE FOR PERMREPS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO PROVIDE COMMENTS REFLECTING NATIONAL POSITIONS TO SYG LUNS WHO IN TURN WOULD CONVEY THEM TO MINISTERS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 088229

6. DURING THE DISCUSSION, YOU MAY BE FACED WITH TWO ISSUES: LONG RANGE SYSTEMS AND ARMS CONTROL. ON LONG RANGE SYSTEMS, WE ADOPTED THE UK SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR THE IMPORTANT PORTIONS OF SECTION VI WHICH SHOULD ALSO ACCOMMODATE THE CONCERNS OF THE FRG AND OTHERS. IF THERE IS FURTHER DEBATE, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD STAND FIRMLY BY THE LANGUAGE IN THE HLG REPORT. IN ANY CASE, NO REFINEMENT OF REPORT LANGUAGE SHOULD BE ATTEMPTED BY PERMREPS.

7. ON ARMS CONTROL, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE REFLECTED THE CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP. THERE IS SOME RESIDUAL UNEASE ON THE MILITARY SIDE. HOWEVER, IF NECESSARY, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE NPG OR HLG IS NOT THE FORUM IN WHICH ARMS CONTROL MEASURES ARE TO BE DEVELOPED. WE HAVE NO INTENTIONS IN THAT DIRECTION; WE MERELY WISHED TO SIGNAL THAT ANY FURTHER WORK SHOULD BE AWARE OF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS. YOU WILL NOTE THAT NOTHING IS SAID ABOUT ARMS CONTROL IN THE "SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS" OF THE HLG REPORT. THE WORDS IN THE BODY OF THE REPORT DO NOT CONSTITUTE

GUIDANCE.

8. ON FUTURE WORK, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL

STAFF WOULD NOT BE HAPPY TO SEE THE HLG CONTINUE. BUT THE ISSUE OF LONGER-RANGE SYSTEMS IS LOADED WITH POLITICO-MILITARY QUESTIONS. THERE IS MUCH INTEREST IN WASHINGTON AND DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE NECESSARY. WE CAN AGREE THAT HLG SHOULD CONFINE ITSELF IN THE NEXT STAGE TO EXAMINING THE LONGER-RANGE SYSTEMS ISSUES.

9. AS FOR HANDLING TNF MODERNIZATION AT THE DPC, AND THE SUMMIT, YOU SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING LINE:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 088229

A. NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING:

- MINISTERS DISCUSS REPORT.

- MINISTERS AGREE WITH SECTION VI OF HLG REPORT AS GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER EFFORT, AND DIRECT FURTHER WORK. THEY ASK HLG TO CONDUCT "DETAILED EXAMINATION" OF LONGER RANGE SYSTEMS, AS CALLED FOR IN PARA 47.

- MINISTERS FORWARD SECTION VI TO DPC FOR INFORMATION AS PROGRESS REPORT OF TF10 OF LTDP.

- MINISTERS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE WHICH SAYS THEY ADDRESSED TNF MODERNIZATION, BUT DO NOT SAY WHAT THRUST OF ADDRESSAL WAS.

B. DPC NOTES NPG REPORT: WE DO NOT EXPECT, AND WILL TRY TO AVOID, DISCUSSION AT THAT LEVEL. DPC MAY INCLUDE SOME REFERENCE TO TNF MODERNIZATION IN LTDP REPORT TO SUMMIT, BUT WE WILL WANT TO TRY TO ENSURE IT IS VAGUE, SAYING SOMETHING LIKE "TNF MODERNIZATION SHOULD ALSO PROCEED," WITHOUT INDICATING HOW.

C. SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE SHOULD MAKE PASSING REFERENCE TO TNF MODERNIZATION WITHOUT DETAILS.

10. ALL OF THE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REF (B). FORMULATION CONTAINED IN PARA III.3(C) OF REF (B) GOES WELL BEYOND WHAT WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TRANSMITTAL LETTER. THRUST OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF TRANSMITTAL LETTER WOULD BE TO TASK PERMREPS WITH OVERSEEING FURTHER TNF MODERNIZATION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 088229

WORK, WHEREAS WE FAVOR CONTINUATION OF HIGH LEVEL GROUP FOR THIS PURPOSE. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE WORK EITHER TO DELETE THIS SECTION OR TO SUBSTITUTE FOR PARA III.3(C) MORE GENERAL LANGUAGE ALONG THE LINES OF QTE APPROVE FOLLOW-ON WORK REQUIRED IN FURTHERANCE OF LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO NATO TNF FORCE POSTURE. UNQTE. A MORE DETAILED FALLBACK FORMULATION WHICH WE COULD ACCEPT WOULD BE TO QTE. (C) APPROVE FURTHER WORK RELATING TO LONG-RANGE SYSTEMS AND (D) INSTRUCT NPG PERMREPS TO SET IN MOTION SUCH ADDITIONAL WORK AS APPROPRIATE CONSISTENT WITH MINISTERIAL DELIBERATIONS AND THE AGREED MINUTE. UNQTE. VANCE

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